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IDAHO

COEUR D'ALENE.

TEKOA, WASH., July 8, 1909.

Since my last annual report very many changes have taken place on this reservation. The allotment of the Indians has been completed, but a great many of the Indians are still opposed to the allotment of their land and are still causing no little trouble. They are still trying to retain the land that they formerly claimed, and a great many of them refuse to move their fences to the lines that were established by the allotting agent, and persist in claiming the land that they formerly claimed; but with a few exceptions they are falling in line and are placing their fences on the lines as are established, disregarding old boundary lines. A great deal of the present trouble could in a measure have been avoided had the Indians been made to understand just where their boundary lines were. Since the departure of the allotting agent I have taken great care in explaining to the Indians their allotments, but it will take some time before they become familiar with their boundary lines.

There is more land in cultivation this year on the reservation than in former years. As the land was very foul, I deemed it best to have nearly all of the old land fallowed, which I considered necessary to the raising of a good crop. A great majority of the Indians were wholly unable to cultivate their land this year on account of the short crop of last year and the high price of seed and feed this year, and felt that something had to be done to relieve them. This could only be done by getting a better class of farmers and those that were able to carry on their farms and have sufficient money to harvest and care for their crop. I feel that the plan that was adopted has been very successful, for we are now assured of a bountiful crop, and it will place the Indians on their feet and they will be better prepared to carry on their work with better success.

The census as taken to June 30, 1909, shows a population as follows:

Coeur d'Alenes, males 270, females 263	533
Spokanes, males 49, females 55	104
Total population	637
Children between five and sixteen, males 73, females 70	143

The mission schools on this reservation are conducted by the Catholic denomination. About one year ago the erection of a new building was commenced by the mission people; the building is now completed and will surpass any building of its kind in north Idaho. This structure is composed of brick and will accomodate about 300 pupils and is a modern structure in every respect, having steam heat in the rooms, and is lighted with electricity; and the children of this reservation can be taken care of equally as well as in any other schools of this country; and the teachers in these schools are deserving of great credit for the interest manifested by them in the education of the Indian children.

Since my last report the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad has been completed; the north half of the Idaho and Northwestern railroad is

being rushed to completion; on the north boundary of this reservation the Lake Creek and Coeur d'Alene railroad is being built; and when these roads are completed the people of the reservation will be well furnished with transportation, and the roads are so situated that they will accommodate all.

The morality of the Indians of this reservation is not what it should be, and all on account of the liquor traffic. It seems impossible to keep this poison from the Indians. It seems that as fast as you arrest one white man for giving or selling liquor to Indians there are others that will take his place. It not only demoralizes the men but the women as well. Since July 3, 1909, I have caused the arrest of four white men for giving and selling liquor to Indians; they were all bound over to await the action of the grand jury. Some more stringent measures should be adopted; the Indians should be punished as well as the white man, and I am of the opinion that this would in a measure put a stop to the liquor traffic. If it continues, I will venture the assertion that 20 per cent of the Indians will die from the effects of alcoholic poison in the next ten years.

CHARLES O. WORLEY, *Superintendent.*

FORT HALL.

ROSSFORK, IDAHO, *July 28, 1909.*

Little, if any, change has occurred during the year among the Indians, except possibly the fact that they are showing more desire to select their future homes looking to allotment and their permanent residences and farms. A greater number of Indians are cultivating land in different portions of the reservation than at any time in the history of the tribe. This is partly due to the fact that nearly 500 Indians from the Lemhi reservation have become settled among the Fort Hall Indians and are working hard to obtain little farms where they intend to make their homes. Wheat, oats, alfalfa and a large area of wild hay is being cared for, and many small gardens have been planted. The harvest is not yet ready and these crops could only be estimated.

Irrigation is the one thing that must be given close attention in this section of the country and the acreage of agricultural land will depend entirely upon just what land can come under irrigation ditches and is susceptible to irrigation. It is thought when the storage reservoir is completed and the lateral ditches have reached different sections of the reservation that water sufficient for agricultural purposes can be secured. This will insure good crops and a competence for the Indians who are thrifty and care to surround themselves with the necessaries of life.

The question of stock and a better grade of stock has appealed to many of the more progressive Indians and they have counceled with me many times in regard to the purchase of a number of high grade young bulls. The class of gross beef furnished by the Indians to both the agency and school is as good as can be obtained in this section of the country; but the increase in stock from what it was in former years has fallen off to a large extent, from the reason that the same bulls have been used for a number of years and little, if any, attention paid to the selection of young bulls for the herd.

No allotments have yet been made but the Indians are looking forward to the time when they will receive a patent for the land they occupy. This will be a new departure for them; yet they will accept such allotments in good faith, and little or no trouble is anticipated when such allotment is made.

The school work at the Fort Hall school for the fiscal year 1909 has been very successful, and the average attendance of 200 maintained during the year. Under the new proposition and mandamus issued by the Office that "double beds must go," the average attendance of the school will necessarily be decreased, and the average attendance can not exceed 180 pupils on account of the want of floor space for single beds. This, in my opinion, is one of the best steps taken by the Office, and while the floor space will

not admit of the same number of pupils being cared for as heretofore, I am sure that the general results will be more than sufficient to overcome the decrease in numbers.

The Indians of the reservation have taken kindly to the matter of the education of their children, and with few exceptions no antagonism or trouble was experienced in keeping the average attendance for the year at 200. The closing exercises of the school were very interesting, and the illustrations on the stage in the school building showed plainly much improvement in a domestic line of work as well as schoolroom work. The matter of practical education has been given much thought, and the training of the younger generation of Indians has been carried out on these lines, and as stated above much improvement has been recognized, especially by those who are familiar with Indian education.

The two missionary societies, Episcopal and Presbyterian, have maintained their religious meetings with the Indians. One of the churches, Presbyterian, is in charge of an Indian, whom I consider an honest, straightforward man. He has the respect of the white people in his vicinity as well as the Indians, and is doing good work. The Episcopal mission under the jurisdiction of Rev. J. B. Funston of Boise, Idaho, has maintained a school for the Indians, and the services at this church have been well attended. The attendance at this mission school for the year has been 17 pupils, ranging in age from 6 to 10 years.

The morality of the Indians of the reservation will compare favorably with that of any tribe. Few cases of immorality come before the court of Indian offenses, and seldom, if ever, the second time. The marriage certificates furnished by the Office have been used to a large extent in the marriages of Indians, and the ceremonies performed by the superintendent of this agency, yet two marriages were performed by the Presbyterian minister in charge of the mission who is an Indian, as before stated.

The court of Indian offenses is composed of three Indian judges receiving the small compensation of \$7.00 per month. Session of this court is held every two weeks, on Saturdays, and often once a week when necessity requires. The questions of personal grievance among the Indians and their families come before this court for adjudication, and I feel that matters can be adjusted by them far better than by some one who is not a member of the tribe. Their decisions are respected, and in cases where some violation of the laws promulgated by the Department are presented to them for hearing, it is seldom the case that the same man or woman comes before them the second time. I consider the Indian court one of the strongest plans for peace and harmony among these people, not so much from fear of punishment or fine, but from their respect for the advice and counsel of the judges.

As to sanitary conditions, I respectfully submit herewith the data furnished by the agency physician, Dr. Henry R. Wheeler:

The sanitary condition of the school is good, if not better than many of the schools to be found elsewhere. Its desirable location, good water supply and adequate sewerage system should make it a healthful institution for a school. So far, there has never been a death at this school.

In review of the year's work it can be said that a full course of lectures has been given by the nurse and the physician upon the subjects relative to bathing, diet for the sick, ventilation, cleanliness and care of infants; also pertaining to the care of emergency cases, accidents, drowning, sanitary conditions of Indian homes, and upon such minor topics as would be of benefit to the larger pupils who are soon to become the camp Indians of the reservations. While school is in session, it is accepted as an opportune time to instruct the future camp Indians upon the proper methods of home life with sanitary surroundings.

Throughout the year, 277 cases of illness took place at the government school. A part of these cases were severe and of clinical importance; while others, though demanding the usual care and attention, were only dispensary calls, yet worthy of record for their statistical significance and value. Out of all cases recorded, 182 were hospital patients. This number seems large, owing to 131 cases of mumps, many of whom were sent to the hospital to protect them from exposure. This year only five patients were found to be infected with pulmonary tuberculosis. A thorough examination of the school having been made the year before, all infected cases were eliminated; fewer cases were found this year. All of these patients are at camp on leave of absence awaiting recovery.

The health of the inhabitants and the sanitary condition of the reservation remain about the same as they were last year. The camp Indians have suffered from the same ailments as those of the school, but being out at camp, subject to exposure, the lack of good nursing and the proper administration of medicine, many of the cases of pneumonia and influenza are fatal. Some of the means still in use by the "Old Medicine Man" have a telling effect upon a share of these patients and often hasten a fatal termination of these diseases of the critically ill. The mixed blood and some of the more progressive full blood Indians will follow the precepts of the doctor and build water closets for daily use; but the "Old Timer" will ignore his advice altogether. The Indians who have had their training at the government Indian schools are beginning to form a share of the camp population, and they seem to be more susceptible to the instructions concerning sanitation and better modes of life.

Irrigation matters are in charge of the superintendent of irrigation who is located at this place and whose report is made separately to your Office. The employment of a large number of Indians on this project has given them quite a sum of money and has helped them very materially. This part of the Indian labor on the reservation will also be reported direct to your Office.

In conclusion, I desire to state that very little change has been experienced in the management of the affairs here and that on the whole the Indians as a tribe have made good progress.

The population is 1766: males, 900; females, 866.

A. F. CALDWELL, *Superintendent.*

FORT LAPWAI.

(Nez Perce.)

LAPWAI, IDAHO, *Oct. 1, 1909.*

The Fort Lapwai school is located twelve miles east of the city of Lewiston on the Camas Prairie branch of the Northern Pacific railroad, in Nez Perce county, Idaho, and on what was formerly the Nez Perce Indian reservation. The Nez Perce Indians are under the charge of the superintendent of the Fort Lapwai school.

The Nez Perce tribe numbers, according to the census for the year ending June 30, 1909, 1470 Indians.

The Nez Perce Indian reservation is one of the richest agricultural districts in the northwest. Their allotments are scattered over a large territory and it is estimated that fully 20,000 white people now have their homes within the former reservation boundaries. One thousand eight hundred and ninety-five allotments were made to the tribe, trust patents for which were issued to them in the year 1895.

These Indians, while leasing most of their land, cultivate considerable land themselves. There is hardly a family that does not have at least a garden and a few acres in wheat or oats, and many of them have from 40 to 200 acres under cultivation each year. It is only within the past few years that the growing of grain has been a profitable industry in this section of the country. For many years it was thought that all prairie lands on the Nez Perce and Camas Prairies were in altogether too cold a climate for successful farming purposes. The raising of wheat and barley requires considerable machinery and good work horses and wagons, in order to make a success of the industry. There is no kind of work more attractive to the Nez Perce Indians than to be able to own and drive a large four-horse team.

A great many who have such teams take contracts each season for hauling grain to the warehouses for white farmers and make good wages. These Indians who are thrifty enough to get sufficient money ahead with which to purchase good teams and farming implements are making a success of farming their own land.

The Nez Perce reservation was formerly a great stock country and the Indians had large herds of cattle and horses. This afforded them a congenial and profitable occupation; but since the reservation was thrown open to settlement, and the surplus lands open to entry, the Indians have been forced to sell off their stock and dispose of it on account of lack of sufficient range for grazing.

The Nez Perce Indians are holding on to their allotments with remarkable tenacity. Very little inherited land has been sold during the past year, and where sales have been made the allotments have been purchased almost entirely by white farmers who own land adjoining them. Few applications are made for patents in fee to allotments, and it has been the policy of this office to scrutinize these applications very closely, and the Indians have been encouraged to hold on to their lands. It is true, some who have secured patents in fee have immediately sold their lands, and a few of them have squandered their money within a few weeks after getting it. All have received good prices for their land and many of them have used their money wisely.

Last year about 75 Nez Perce pupils attended the various nonreservation schools; about 100 attended the Fort Lapwai Boarding school; about 25 the St. Joseph mission school on the reservation, and probably a dozen attended the public schools of the county. A new day school has been erected at Kamiah, Idaho, to accommodate 30 pupils. A sanatorium school for those affected with tuberculosis is now being arranged for at the Fort Lapwai school, and the former Fort Lapwai Boarding school is to be consolidated with the rural white public school at Fort Lapwai. This plan meets with the hearty approval of both Indians and whites, and it is believed that it will prove a success. These schools will be opened October 4, 1909.

Both the Presbyterian and Catholic churches maintain missions on the Nez Perce reservation, the Presbyterians having by far the largest number of communicants. Both missions are doing excellent work and the Indians are very faithful in their attendance at church.

Notwithstanding the fact the Nez Perce Indians are citizens of the state of Idaho and subject to its laws, still a great many of the Indians continue to contract marital relations under the old Indian custom. This is a source of a great deal of trouble in distributing the estates of deceased Indians; besides, the practice works a cruel hardship on many an innocent child or offspring from these Indian-custom marriages. I have made several attempts to punish some of the most offensive cases, but the state courts are reluctant to take any steps to settle difficulties arising between Indians themselves. One reason assigned is, that because the Indians do not pay taxes the people do not think the county should be compelled to go to any expense in bringing offenders of the law to justice, where the offense is not against some white person. I have also tried to get these cases into the United States Court and I believe that this court would take notice of offenses committed on Indian allotments, but the trouble has been to get the Indians to give testimony in such cases. Usually their testimony in court is altogether different from the reports they first make to me, and so far I have failed to secure evidence sufficient to warrant an indictment by the grand jury.

The Nez Perce Indians are generally moral. I do not believe that there are more than one hundred in the tribe that can be classed as immoral and profligate. They have a very high standard of morality as a rule and they are very strict in enforcing the church discipline, even to prohibiting the use of tobacco or hunting or fishing on Sunday.

A great deal of trouble has been experienced during the past few years in the establishment of public roads through Indian lands on the reservation. The Indians contribute nothing to the maintenance of public roads, either in the way of taxes or by work on them. As a rule they are opposed to the making of public roads through their land and usually ask exorbitant prices for the land so taken, although there is no class of people in the country that uses the public roads more than do these Indians.

The Nez Perce Indians have not made progress along industrial lines that might reasonably be expected of a tribe of people possessing so many good qualities as they possess. This is accounted for chiefly because they have received such large sums of money from their lands during the past fifteen years. This has seemingly taken away from many of them all incentive and effort. I have observed in traveling over the reservation that nearly all of the best houses and best improved farms are the result of work of the Indians before they received large per capita payments for the sale of their surplus land. I have observed a number of places that give evidence that at one time they were owned by workers. Nearly all the orchards on the reservation were planted years ago when the Nez Perce had to work for their living. I know of very few young orchards belonging to the Indians that have been planted within recent years. These facts are a striking example of the "curse of gold" for the Indians.

There have been 45 deaths in the tribe during the past year, 90 per cent of which the school physician informs me is due either directly or indirectly to tuberculosis. The Nez Perce women, as a rule, are very indifferent housekeepers, and so far I have been unable to do a great deal in the way of getting them to realize the importance of keeping their homes clean. During the past fifteen years the tribe has decreased in number almost 25 per cent, and unless something can be done to improve their home life it is only a question of time when the tribe will become extinct.

OSCAR H. LIPPS, *Superintendent.*

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